

Message Text

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S E C R E T MANILA 4934

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. I CONSIDER THE AIDE-MEMOIRE PRESENTED TO US BY THE
PHILIPPINE SIDE ON MARCH 28, TOGETHER WITH THE DISCUSSION
WHICH ENSUED, A STEP FORWARD IN OUR DISCUSSIONS. WHILE
THE APPROACH AND LANGUAGE ARE NOT WHAT WE WOULD HAVE
CHOSEN, THERE ARE POSITIVE SAPECTS AND, I BELIEVE, A BASIS
FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SO
INTERPRET IT.

2. THE POSITIVE ASPECTS ARE: (PARTICULARLY WHEN COMPARED
WITH THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF MARCH 21)

A. A RECOGNITION OF OUR NEED FOR THE UNHAMPERED USE OF
CERTAIN WATERS OF SUBIC BAY;

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B. A WILLINGNESS TO GRANT US THE USE OF AREAS WE
WERE PREVIOUSLY ASKED TO RELINQUISH (I.E., GRANDE
ISLAND, SUBIC WATERSHED, JOHN HAY AND WALLACE).

C. THE RECOGNITION, ALBEIT STILL IN AN UNACCEPTABLE
FORM, OF THE ROLE OF THE U.S. COMMANDER IN THE PROMULGATION

OF RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE BASES.

3. CLEARLY, THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT WISH FURTHER TO PURSUE THE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. I FEEL THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN SETTING THE STAGE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND, PERHAPS, PRECLUDING OTHER UNILATERAL PHILIPPINE INITIATIVES (SUCH AS THE SUDDEN APPOINTMENT OF BASE COMMANDERS AND THEIR APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE OR THE SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A TAKE-OVER OF THE BASES) THROUGH OUR SUBMITTING AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO THEM SOON WHICH WOULD:

A. ACCEPT THEIR AIDE-MEMOIRE OF MARCH 28 AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS WHICH NEED FURTHER EXPLORATION. (I HAVE THE FEELING THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS HAS BEEN THAT WE HAVE INSISTED ON THEIR ACCEPTING OUR PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS, RATHER THAN THEIRS. IT IS NOTICE-ABLE THAT THEY HAVE NEVER REPLIED DIRECTLY TO ONE OF OUR PROPOSALS.)

B. SET FORTH CLEARLY WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE ENSUING STEPS:

1. PROPOSE PRELIMINARY MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS ON EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES: CROW VALLEY, SUBIC BAY WATERS, SUBIC WATERSHED, GRANDE SECRET

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ISLAND, JOHN HAY, WALLACE, SAN MIGUEL, AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER, COSTS OF BASE SECURITY. DISCUSSIONS WOULD SEEK TO SET OUR DETAILS OF DRAFT OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS ON EACH OF THE ABOVE THAT ARE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE. WHERE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES, THE MILITARY WOULD SEEK TO IDENTIFY THE ALTERNATIVES AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR HIGHER LEVEL RESOLUTION.

2. PROPOSE THAT, BASED UPON THE WORK OF THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS, SENIOR WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES WOULD COME TO MANILA TO WORK OUT THE UMBRELLA AMENDMENTS TO THE MBA AND TO RESOLVE ANY ITEMS ESCALATED FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

C. ESTABLISH THE FIRM POSITION THAT THE MBA AMENDMENT AND THE VARIOUS IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS MUST ENTER INTO EFFECT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

D. INDICATE OUR EXPECTATION OF A PHILIPPINE COUNTER PROPOSAL ON COMPENSATION, REITERATING THE LIMITATIONS UNDER WHICH WE MUST CONSIDER SUCH A PROPOSAL.

E. INDICATE OUR READINESS, WHEN DISCUSSIONS
RESUME, TO PRESENT A COMPLETE PROPOSAL ON SECURITY
COSTS AT THE BASES.

F. REITERATE OUR POSITION ON CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AS
SET FORTH IN THE TALKING PAPER PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 28
MEETING.
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